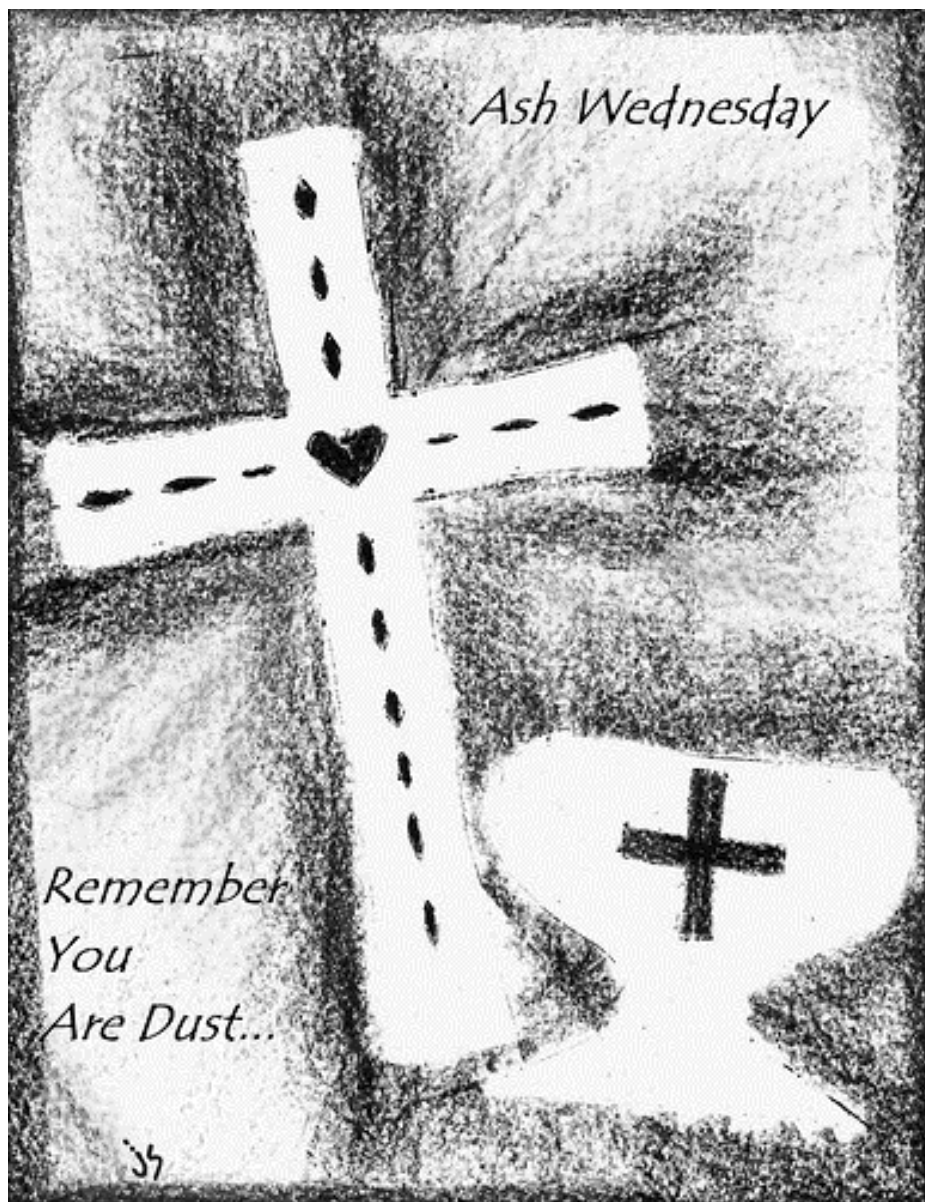


Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026



**Christ's Lutheran Church
Murrysville, Pennsylvania**

“A Place to Believe, Belong, and Become”



Christ's Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered and welcoming, Christian community committed to encouraging faith-filled living, deepening friendships, and life-changing discipleship.

Welcome! If you are new to worship in a Lutheran church, this introduction will help guide you through our worship service. The prayers, responses, and service music are printed in this bulletin. You will need to use the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnals to sing the hymns. Our Sunday morning service is livestreamed on YouTube and your image may appear.

Communion - All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the gift of Holy Communion. Children who haven't received Holy Communion may also come forward for a blessing. You can either kneel or remain standing when you come to the altar. We offer both wheat and gluten-free wafers, and both wine and grape juice. If you would like to receive grape juice, please take a glass from the tray that has already been filled when you come forward. If you would like to receive a gluten-free wafer, please let the Pastor know when you are given the bread.

Children are always welcome! Please feel free to walk around in the rear area of our worship space if your child becomes restless. Rest rooms (with diaper decks) are located in the hallway to the right of the entryway. You can find cloth bags containing activities for children aged 3 and older in the back of our worship space. We ask you to please return the cloth bags and their contents (minus any artwork your child creates while you are worshipping) at the end of today's service.

CHRIST'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

5330 Old Logan Ferry Road, Murrysville, PA 15668

Office: 412-795-1212

Church Office email: office@christsmurrysville.org

Website: www.christsmurrysville.org

App: Christ's Lutheran (ELCA)

Ash Wednesday

(Please silence your electronic devices)

Please stand, if you are able, each time you see an asterisk (*)

ENTER IN SILENCE

*** THE PSALM – Psalm 51:1-17**

(read responsively)

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

C: **Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.**

P: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

C: **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in
your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when
you judge.**

P: Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother
conceived me.

C: **Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught
me wisdom in that secret place.**

P: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will
be whiter than snow.

C: **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have
crushed rejoice.**

P: Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

C: **Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast
spirit within me.**

P: Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from
me.

C: **Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing
spirit, to sustain me.**

P: Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.

C: Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

P: Open my lips, Lord, and my mouth will declare your praise.

C: You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

P: My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

*** GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love

to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

MESSAGE

Pastor Ed Sheehan

(please be seated)

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus” (v 1 & 4)

ELW #802

*** THE INVITATION TO LENT**

*** THE CONFESSION OF SIN**

(A Brief Silence for Reflection)

P: Most Holy and Merciful Father,

C: we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved
your Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride,
hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

C: we confess to you, Lord.

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of
other people,

C: we confess to you, Lord.

P: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more
fortunate than ourselves,

C: we confess to you, Lord.

P: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our
dishonesty in daily life and work,

C: we confess to you, Lord.

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share
the faith that is in us,

C: we confess to you, Lord.

P: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For
our failure to see human need and suffering, and our indifference
to injustice and cruelty,

C: accept our repentance, Lord.

P: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our
neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who
differ from us,

C: accept our repentance, Lord.

P: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of
concern for those who come after us,

C: accept our repentance, Lord.

P: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P: Prayer of Preparation

(Those who desire to receive ashes may now come forward.)

P: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

*** THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence

P: Guide your church, O God. Accompany all Christians in this season of repentance, and renew our faith in the riches of grace you give to us in baptism. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Heal this earth, O God. Satisfy the needs of every parched place, every diverse ecosystem, every suffering creature. Though all return to dust, grant beauty and purpose to each living thing. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Restore the nations, O God. Let your healing spring up quickly across the world. Give all in authority the will to loose the bonds of injustice and let any who are oppressed go free. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Deliver your people, O God. Comfort any whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold any who are sick, bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all without shelter. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Bless this assembly, O God. Reconcile us to one another and to you. Strengthen our resolve to fast from evil, open our hands in sharing, and quicken our prayer. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Hold us forever, O God. We thank you for all who now know their treasure in heaven, and for all who on earth proclaimed your abounding, steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.

OFFERING

To Support God's Work in Our Church and Beyond

This is a time in our service that we use to remember that all that we are, all that we have, and all that we do, is an offering to God.

You can place your offering in the offering plate that is passed at this time in our service,

*You can scan this QR code to go to our online giving page,
You can use our app to send your offering,*



or mail your offering to the church:

*Christ's Lutheran Church
5330 Old Logan Ferry Road
Murrysville, PA 15668*

THE OFFERTORY

Instrumental

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

A: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Let us now pray together as Jesus taught us.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

*** LAMB OF GOD**

P: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: Have mercy on us.

P: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: Have mercy on us.

P: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: Grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

(please be seated)

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

C: Amen.

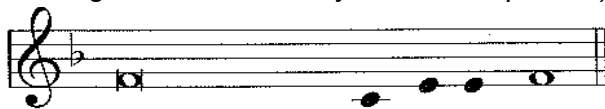
(When Communion is finished, please stand)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

* THE LITANY

(Please sing "Lord, have mercy" after each petition)



L In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of Christ, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For Bishop Melissa Stoller, for all leaders in the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy

P: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who wait for the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our deliverance from all afflictions, wrath, danger and need, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord.

C: Let us give thanks.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

(A time of silence for meditation)

P: Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

C: To you, O Lord.

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

C: Amen.

*** THE BLESSING**

A: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

*** THE DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

PLEASE LEAVE IN SILENCE

Pastor Emeritus
Organist
Pianist
Parish Administrator

Rev. Steven J. Myers
Joshua Beck
Nancy Finke Sheehan
Laura Vincenti

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